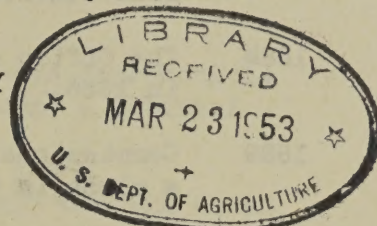




50th ANNIVERSARY OF FARM DEMONSTRATION WORK
Dr. Seaman A. Knapp and Texas Farmer Carry
Out First Organized "Learning by Doing" Venture
February 26, 1903 February 26, 1953.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY
OF
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK



1833 Dr. Seaman A. Knapp was born December 16, 1833 at Schroon, N. Y.

1855 Michigan State Agricultural College established in 1855. The first agricultural college in the United States.

1862 The U. S. Department of Agriculture was established May 15, 1862, as a separate agency headed by a Commissioner of its own.

The first Morrill Act was approved on July 2, 1862, in which public lands were donated to the support of Colleges of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in the several States and territories. It was this Act which established the land-grant colleges.

1872 The East Tennessee Farmers' Convention was held for the first time at Knoxville, Tenn. in 1872, attended by farmers from a number of counties. It is still meeting annually and cooperates with the State College of Agriculture.

1873 Nebraska held Farmers' Institutes during the winter of 1873-74 at four different points and lectures on agriculture were given before six Teachers' Institutes.

1875 The first State Agricultural Experiment Station was established in California in 1875.

Pennsylvania established a State Board of Agriculture in 1875 and for 18 years held Farmers' Institutes under its direction.

1880 Ohio sponsored the idea of holding an institute in every county in the State, at the suggestion of W. I. Chamberlain, who was secretary of the Board of Agriculture in 1880.

1885 Norman J. Colman of New York who became the first Secretary of Agriculture February 8, 1889 appointed Commissioner by President Grover Cleveland in 1885.

- 1885 Wisconsin organized Farmers' Institutes in Agriculture in 1885, which were, for the most part, managed by the farmers.
- 1887 The Hatch Act of March 2, 1887 established the State Experiment Stations in connection with the land-grant colleges.
- 1888 The Office of Experiment Stations was established in the USDA in 1888.
- 1889 Commissioner of the USDA was given the title of Secretary with a place in the President's cabinet in 1889.
- 1892 Cotton boll weevil entered Texas from Mexico in 1892. By 1902 it had spread over the entire State of Texas, causing losses totaling millions of dollars. In many places banks were closed, farms deserted and bread lines formed.
- 1898 Seaman A. Knapp appointed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as an agricultural explorer to investigate rice growing in the Orient.
- 1900 Will B. Otwell, Macoupin County, Ill., offered one ounce of high grade seed corn to every boy and girl in the county who promised to plant the corn and make an exhibit at the next year's farmers' institute.
- A. B. Graham, superintendent of schools, Clark County, Ohio, organized a group of school boys and girls into an agricultural club which held monthly meetings and grew improved varieties of crops at their homes. January 15, 1902.
- 1902 Dr. Knapp appointed by chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA, as Special Agent for the Promotion of Agriculture in the South. One of his new duties was the establishment and supervision of government-financed demonstration farms.
- W. J. Spillman appointed agrostologist for Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. After 1904 he was given responsibility of directing the "Diversification Farms."
- 1903 The first farmer-conducted farm demonstration of improved varieties of commonly grown crops on the farm of Walter C. Porter near Terrell, Texas, was established. On 70 acres of this farm Mr. Porter demonstrated crop diversification and improved culture according to Dr. Knapp's instructions, carrying out Dr. Knapp's idea that "learning by doing" was the best method of instructing the average person. This was the first farmer-conducted farm demonstration under the direction of an employee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The plans were agreed upon February 26, 1903 in Terrell, Texas.

Professor Perry G. Holden of Iowa State College discussed county demonstration plots with farmers at a Farmers' institute in Sioux County, Iowa, in February, 1903. Later, the farmers induced the county to appropriate money for the enterprise. This was the beginning of county tax support for agricultural extension work in Iowa.

Texas appealed to Congress for aid because of the depredations of the cotton boll weevil, claiming it had become a national problem.

In the fall of 1903 the Secretary of Agriculture and the Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry visited the devastated region and the Terrell, Texas, demonstration. On their recommendation Congress made an emergency appropriation of \$250,000 to combat the boll weevil. Half of this sum was assigned to Bureau of Entomology and half to Bureau of Plant Industry. Dr. Knapp was given \$40,000 of the latter to continue his farm demonstration work.

- 1904 In 1904 Congress made a special appropriation of \$27,316 to continue cooperative demonstration work. J. A. Evans, W. F. Proctor, W. D. Bentley, J. L. Quicksall and W. M. Bamberge were appointed as the first representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in extension work, with offices in Texas. They served a territory in South Texas along a railroad, the only means of conveyance other than horses.

The first field agent appointed by Dr. Knapp was William Bamberge on January 27, 1904. J. A. Evans and W. F. Proctor were appointed on February 12, 1904.

- 1905 Arkansas and Louisiana began farm demonstration work.

Ohio employed A. B. Graham as superintendent of extension work for Ohio State University.

- 1906 In 1906 T. M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and J. B. Pierce, Hampton, Virginia, were appointed as the first Negro extension agents.

In 1906 Iowa's legislature approved on April 10, an act for appropriating funds for agricultural extension and experimental work.

On April 20, 1906, the Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, and Dr. Wallace Buttrick, secretary of the General Education Board, signed a cooperative agreement providing that the Board would finance farm demonstration work in areas not infested by the cotton boll weevil. . . Government appropriations were made only for work in weevil-infested States.

On November 12, 1906 W. C. Stallings was appointed county agent in Smith County, Texas. He was the first county agent assigned full time to one county in the United States.

- 1906-7 In 1906-7 the office of Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work in the Southern States was established in the Bureau of Plant Industry. This Bureau coordinated work in the Southern States as early as 1904.
- 1907 On March 4, 1907 the Nelson Amendment supplied additional funds to the land-grant colleges. It provided \$5,000 the first year and finally \$50,000 for each State or territory having a land-grant college.
- On November 11, 1907 W. H. Smith of Holmes County, Miss., was appointed by the USDA to carry out demonstrations with organized groups of boys and girls. He was the first regularly employed county club agent in the United States.
- 1908 In 1908 the State of Mississippi enacted a law authorizing the use of county funds for employing county agricultural agents in cooperation with USDA. Most Southern States had passed similar laws by 1910.
- 1909 In 1909 the late Dr. L. N. Duncan of Alabama was appointed "Boys Club Leader" to promote agricultural work among the boys. He was the first State "Boys Club Leader" appointed by the USDA. The agreement was that the USDA pay salary and travel and the State of Alabama would furnish an office and pay \$300 per year for clerical help.
- 1910 In 1910 Bedford County, Pa., had A. B. Ross appointed solely on USDA funds on March 1, as a result of his efforts, as an individual, to aid farmers of the county with agricultural information.
- On June 3, 1910 Miss Ella C. Agnew of Virginia was appointed the first county home demonstration agent, cooperatively by the USDA and the State of Virginia.
- Marie Cromer was the second county home demonstration agent to be appointed in the United States, to work in South Carolina. She was appointed on August 16, 1910.
- 1911 The cooperative employment of J. H. Barron as county agricultural agent in Broome and adjacent counties in New York by the USDA, New York State College of Agriculture, Chamber of Commerce of Binghamton, and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway Co. He was the first cooperatively appointed agent in the Northern States.

On February 26, 1911 the Utah Agricultural College and the Utah Experiment Station employed L. M. Windsor as county agent for Uintah and Wasatch counties, the first county agent for the Western States.

- 1911 On April 1, 1911 Dr. Seaman A. Knapp died--was immediately succeeded by his son, Bradford Knapp, as in charge of Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work.
- 1912 On January 24, 1912 Clemson College, S. C. and the USDA completed and signed the first memorandum of understanding which provided for cooperative arrangements in carrying out all extension work in the State. Georgia and Texas completed arrangements and signed similar memorandums also in 1912. In 1913 Florida, North Carolina and West Virginia signed similar memorandums.
- On January 23, 1912 the first Negro home demonstration agent, Annie Peters, was appointed to work in Boley, Okla. On May 24, 1912 Mattie Holmes was the second Negro home demonstration agent appointed at Hampton Institute, Va.
- 1913 The first county home demonstration agent in the West was Amy Lyman, who was appointed as a State employee in San Pete County, Utah on July 29, 1913.
- 1914 On May 8, 1914, the Smith-Lever Act was passed establishing cooperative extension work throughout the United States.
- In August, 1914 Katherine Mills was appointed on State funds as county home demonstration agent in Erie County, N. Y., the first to be appointed in the Northern and Western States.
- 1924 On June 7, 1924 (amended October 26, 1949) the Clarke-McNary Act was passed providing for Cooperative Farm-Forestry Work.
- 1928 On May 16, 1928 an Act was passed extending the benefits of experiment stations and extension work to Hawaii.
- On May 22, 1928, the Capper-Ketcham Act was passed providing for further development of agricultural extension work.
- 1929 On February 25, 1929 an Act was passed extending the benefits of the Smith-Lever and the Hatch Acts to Alaska.
- 1931 On March 4, 1931 an Act was passed extending the benefits of extension work and experiment stations to Puerto Rico.
- 1935 On June 29, 1935, an act was passed providing for agricultural research, further development of Cooperative Agricultural Extension Work, and more complete endowment and support of Land-Grant Colleges (Bankhead-Jones Act). Amended on July 31, 1947, by striking out the words "authorized to be" wherever they appear in Section 11, Title I.

- 1936 On June 20, 1936, an act was passed extending the benefits of the Adams Act, and the Capper-Ketcham Act to the Territory of Alaska. (That portion of Section 1 of the Act of June 30, 1936 - 49 Stat 1553 - , which extends the provisions of the Capper-Ketcham Act to the Territory of Alaska, and Section 3 of said act of June 20, 1936, are repealed.)
- 1937 On August 28, 1937, an act was passed extending the benefits of the Extension Section (Sec. 21) of the Bankhead-Jones Act to Puerto Rico.
- 1939 On April 24, 1939, an act was passed providing for further development of Agricultural Extension Work (Additional Cooperative). On September 21, 1944 this act was amended (Agricultural Organic Act of 1944).
- 1945 On June 6, 1945, an act was passed providing for further development work of Agricultural Extension Work (Bankhead-Flannagan Act).
- 1946 On August 14, 1946, an act was passed for further research into basic laws and principles relating to agriculture and to improve and facilitate the marketing and distribution of agricultural products (Research and Marketing Act of 1946).
- 1949 On October 26, 1949, an act was passed extending the benefits of the Bankhead-Jones act to Puerto Rico.
- On October 27, 1949, an act was passed extending the benefits of certain acts to the Territory of Alaska (Bankhead-Jones Act and Capper-Ketcham Act).
- On July 15, 1949, an act was passed providing for financial assistance by the Secretary of Agriculture for farm housing.
- 1951 On October 29, 1951, an act was passed to provide for an agricultural program in the Virgin Islands.

Additional information about the Cooperative Extension Service and anniversary observance may be obtained from the Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.